DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 346 190 UD 028 674

AUTHOR Lynch, Eleanor W., Ed.; Hanson, Marci J., Ed.
TITLE Developing Cross-Cultural Competence: A Guide for Working with Young Children and Their Families.
REPORT NO ISBN-1-55766-086-7
PUB DATE 92
NOTE 427p.
AVAILABLE FROM Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co., P.O. Box 10624, Baltimore, MD 21285-0624.
PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Guides - Non-Classroom Use (055)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS American Indians; Asian Americans; At Risk Persons; *Cross Cultural Training; *Cultural Background; Early Intervention; *Ethnic Groups; *Family Programs; Filipino Americans; Guides; Hispanic Americans; *Human Services; Intercultural Communication; Pacific Americans; Social Workers; *Young Children
IDENTIFIERS African Americans; Europeans; Middle East

ABSTRACT

This book is a guide for early intervention practitioners who are working with families from diverse cultural backgrounds, which aims to help users to develop cross-cultural skills. The volume is organized into three parts. Part I provides an introduction to issues surrounding working with families from diverse backgrounds. Part II, the core of the book, introduces several of the major cultural and ethnic groups that make up the population of the United States, with each group described in terms of its history, values, and beliefs with particular emphasis on issues related to the family, child rearing, and disability. The groups covered include the following types of families: (1) Anglo European; (2) Native American; (3) African American; (4) Latino; (5) Asian American; (6) Pilipino; (7) Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander; and (8) Middle Easterner. Part III synthesizes the information presented in earlier sections and provides recommendations for interventionists working in service delivery systems with the intention of enhancing the sensitivity and awareness of service providers to issues of variability across families in childbearing, health care, and communications. Chapters include extensive references and, frequently, appendices. (JB)

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